Fly-ash and charcoal gases causing health hazards in Delhi

174. SHRI JAGMOHAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that in most of the winter days major parts of Delhi city are under thick clouds of fly-ash and charcoal gases which are highly injurious to public health;

(b) whether Government are promoting oilcoke (Smokeless Coal) and smokeless chulhas to minimise the health hazards; and

(c) if so, what is the extent of success achieved in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) The ambient air quality monitoring data indicates that while the levels of sulphur dioxide and oxides of nitrogen are well within the prescribed limits, the levels of particulate matter are on the higher side particularly during summer because of natural dusty conditions and industrial activities. The pollution levels are aggravated in the winter nights because of occurrence of ground based inversions which prevent the pollutants from dispersing into atmosphere. Therefore, concentration of emissions coupled with natural conditions have resulted in high levels of pollution in Delhi.

(b) and (c) The Government have launched a national programme on improved chulha, and are encouraging the use of special smokeless fuel. The number of improved chulhas provided in Delhi is beyond the target set till January, 1993.

175. [Transferred to 4th March, 1993]

Forests area in the Vidarbha region of Maharashtra

176. SHRI V. RAJESHWAR RAO:
DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the area of forests in the Vidarbha region of Maharashtra State as on 1st February, 1993;

(b) considering the changed emphasis on environment whether government propose to reorganise its structure and function in Vidarbha in particular and the country in general; and

(c) how many institutions are engaged in environment research in the Vidarbha region?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) to (c) The information is being collected from the State Government and will be laid on the Table of the House.

मध्य प्रदेश में चोरी-छिपे शिकार किया जाना

177. **श्री अजीत जोगी :** क्या **पर्यावरण और वन** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार ने मध्य प्रदेश के अभ्यारण्यों में चोरी-छिपे शिकार किये जाने के आरोपों की जांच के लिए कोई समिति बनाई है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इस संबंध में समिति ने क्या निष्कर्ष निकाले हैं ; और

(ग) उन पर सरकार द्वारा क्या कार्यवाही की गई है ?